



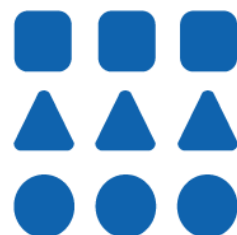
TECHNOLOGY-ASSISTED LEARNING CENTERS

As part of its information and learning technology initiatives, JHPIEGO's Training in Reproductive Health (TRH) Project is supporting the development of Technology Assisted Learning Centers (TALCs) at institutions providing pre- and inservice education and training in low-resource settings. TALCs offer healthcare professionals, whether they are faculty members, clinical trainers or healthcare providers, the ongoing support they need to sustain a high level of performance. For medical, nursing and midwifery students, TALCs provide the electronic resources necessary to build a sound foundation of knowledge for their future work. An evaluation of the TALC at the Health Sciences Library of the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés in La Paz, Bolivia, found that students were the most enthusiastic of the center's "customers," using its resources to take charge of their education and improve their chance of a successful professional life after graduation.¹ At this and every TALC, websites, e-mail discussion lists, electronic newsletters and online learning activities are easily accessed to provide technical information, advice from peers, tools for learning and training and other opportunities for professional development.

TALCs house networked computer workstations, an Internet connection, a printer and a library of health-related CD-ROMs, including the World Health Organization's *Reproductive Health Library* and the Wellcome Trust's *Topics in International Health*. The TRH Project supports the cost of hardware installation, initial computer training of faculty and staff, reference and learning materials on CD-ROM, equipment maintenance and Internet connectivity for 1 year. The institution provides an appropriate facility for the center, and staff to manage it. After 1 year, the host institution assumes responsibility for the TALC's ongoing expenses and long-term sustainability. To help ensure sustainability, the TRH Project also works with the institution to develop cost-recovery measures, such as charging fees for use, training or special services such as word processing. The evaluation report on the TALC in La Paz describes a successful cost-recovery system that garnered \$3,600 in the first year.¹

Since 1999, with funding from the United States Agency for International Development, the TRH Project has established 11 TALCs in 7 countries: Bolivia, Ecuador, Haiti, Kenya, Nepal, Uganda and Uzbekistan. Seven additional TALCs are planned: five in Malawi and two in Ghana.

¹ JHPIEGO Corporation. 2002. *Increasing Access to Reproductive Health Information in Low-Resource Settings: Evaluation of a Technology-Assisted Learning Center in La Paz, Bolivia*. (Draft Evaluation Report)



EXAMPLES OF HOW TALCS ARE BEING USED

Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, La Paz, Bolivia	⇒ <i>Faculty members from Obstetrics/Gynecology, Maternal Health and Pediatrics departments use the TALC to prepare course materials and access current health information on topics such as family planning, infection prevention and maternal and child health.</i>
Universidad Mayor Real y Pontificia de San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca, Sucre, Bolivia	⇒ <i>Medical students, resident interns and faculty members use the TALC to access up-to-date reproductive health and medical information on the Internet.</i>
Haitian Institute for Health and Community Action (INHSAC), Petitionville, Haiti	⇒ <i>Physicians, nurses and auxiliaries attending training at INHSAC receive instruction on accessing up-to-date reproductive health information on the Internet through websites such as ReproLine® (Reproductive Health Online).</i>
Maharajgunj Nursing Campus, Kathmandu, Nepal	⇒ <i>Nursing faculty members who have completed JHPIEGO's Advanced Training Skills course are continuing their knowledge updates using computer-assisted learning on IUDs and Clinical Training Skills, which they are in turn using in their instruction.</i>
Regional Centre for Quality Health Care (RCQHC), Makerere University, Uganda	⇒ <i>Participants and technical advisors of a post-graduate diploma course in quality of healthcare use the TALC to access up-to-date reproductive health information and communicate with colleagues.</i>
First and Second Tashkent State Medical Institutes, Tashkent, Uzbekistan	⇒ <i>Medical students at the two medical institutes attend training at the TALCs on accessing up-to-date reproductive health information on the Internet and collaborate via chat sessions.</i>

For more information about TALCs, contact Theresa Norton (tnorton@jhpigo.net).

This publication was made possible through support provided in part by the Service Delivery Improvement Division, Office of Population and Reproductive Health, Bureau for Global Health, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), under the terms of Award No. HRN-A-00-98-00041-00. The opinions expressed herein are those of JHPIEGO and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID.